WP21942/10

THE July 30th. 1712

Tineklarian Doctor Mitchels Speech, concerning Lawful and Unlawful Oaths,

Dedicated to all those that hath Tender Consciences, but not to the **Wool Merchants at the Bow Head.**

I Reckon some of them hath none, some of them said before many Witnesses, I could not Write these Twelve Books without the help of Doctor PITCAIRN, *And they had no more Convictions then a Natural Bruit Beast, for their Lyes. And altho Doctor* PITCAIRN *be a Wise Man in his own Trade, I would rather see him Hanged before I seek his help to write Books, or any other Mans, and if they make any more Lyes upon me, I shall Anger them worse then Doctor Pitcarian did Mr. Webster, for taking away his Good Name; And I think it is more a Ministers Dutie to Reprove their Paroch for Lying, then to Call any Man an Aithest, and cannot prove it, but now to the Purpose.*

CONcerning Oaths, it is Lawful for me to Swear to keep Enves at no Man, I *have Sworn and will perform, to keep thy Righteous Judgements*; *Again says the Word, Live Peaceablely with all Men.* And I wonder, how any Prince can impose an Oath on me Contrary the Word of GOD, (if they do) I have as much Freedom to break it, as *David* had when he Swear he would Kill *Nabal*, he was more Justified for breaking his Oath, then keeping it, will any Man Except a Mad Man Commend *Herod* for taking the Head of *John the Baptist* to keep his Oath.

2ly. It is Unlawful for me to Swear, I shall not Converse and keep Company with Sinners and not of my Religion, otherways our Blessed Lord would not keep Company with them, and Conversed so long with the Woman of *Samaria*, and Spoken from Heaven to *Paul*; Altho *Nebuchadnezzar* the Great King of *Babylon*, was driven away and was made like a Beast, and Feed like a Beast, yet his Princes sought for him and he came Home to his Kingdom with his Mouth filled with Praise to the GOD of Heaven. Who knows but my King

may do the same? all the Clergie in *Brittain* cannot Answer me? he was never like unto him, some out of Ignorance, says it is ill getting out of the Flesh that is bread in the Bones; I told you enough of that in my last Book, to wit *Manasseh*, Some will say, how can it be otherways? he was bread up amongst *Papists*? Ye may as well say how did I that was bred an *Episcopal*, turn a *Presbyterian*? and now when I have come to light, I can hear any of them with a Clear Conscience, some says I have come to my old Faith again.

There is two Reasons for that, first, I never like that Religion that Justifies themself and Condemns others without Scripture Warrands, the *Episcopals* way of Worship is not Condemned in the Scriptures, and yet the *Presbyterians* will Condemn them, I never hear the *Episcopales* Condemn their way of Worship. Second Reason is the *Episcopals* will take with a Reproof, but the *Presbyterains* will take none. I was Set over them to Teach them their Dutie for a Years time, because they were out of it, they did not head me more then I had been a Dog barking at them, altho my Doctrine was proven by Scripture, but their Pride will not Suffer them to be Reproved, they will have none over them, they pretend they have CHRIST over them; I believe there is not a Bishop in *England* so Ignorant that thinks CHRIST is beneath them; But I shall say this to these, that do not follow his Example and obey his word, they have the Devil over them, and I Reckon him worse then all the Bishops in *England*, and he hath more Power I know by Experience, all the Bishops in *Brittain* never did me so much Mischief as he; Some will say how dare I Speak so of the Ministers, which is GODS sent Servants? Answer, I believe many that Preaches is no more his sent Servants, then *Paul* believed *Ananias* to be GODS high Priest, altho that Blind Generation believed it, *They said to him Revilest thou* GODS *High Priest*? he was not feard to say, GOD *shall smite thee thou Whited Wall, or thou Hypocrite as thou art*; *Paul took him neither for High Priest nor Bishop, nor Minister, but only for a Ruler of the People, (says he,) it is written, thou shall not Speak Evil of the Rulers of the People.*

Paul was the best Minister, (of a meer Man,) that ever I heard, in my Judgement; he was no *Presbyterian*, Otherways he would not ordained *Timothy* the Bishop of *Ephesus*; And he said, *It was a good Office*; And he besought him to stay, and Charge the Rest, *to Preach no other Doctrine than what he Preached*; That is, not to give heed to Fables, and endless Genealogies, which Ministers Question; rather than good Edifying, which is in Faith, (so do Ministers.) I Fear many Ministers looks as little to these Three Books, as I do to the Short Catechism; to wit, *Timothy's* and *Titus*. I shal say thus,

if *Paul* had been my Miniſter I would have gotten a Tocken to take the Sacrament; but my Miniſter would give me none, nor a Reaſon for it, except this, becauſe I converſed with Sinners; The *Epiſcopals* did not Refuſe, becauſe they have Charitie towards all Men. *Paul* received all that came to him, becauſe he was not proud; That Clergie is like to make me forget my Text. I ſay ſome takes an Oath ignorantlie, theſe may very Lawfullie break that Oath, when they come to Light. Sometimes a graceleſs Perſon will know the Mind of GOD better than a Saint; As for Example, *Joab* knew it was a ſin to number the People better than *David*. Again ſome takes an Oath raſhlie, it may Lawfullie be broken; How did *David* praiſe GOD, upon the account he break his Oath? if he had keeped it, he would broken the Sixth Command, which is worſe.

I come now to the Application, Do not think I give You a Tolleration to take Oaths, all them that takes Oaths contrarie the word and their own Lights, and breaks it, they ſhall be ſeverelie puniſh'd, for it, either them or theirs; the reaſon is becauſe GOD is unchangeable; It is GODS Oath if ye name His Name to it. *Saul* break an Oath that was made ſome hundred of Years before he was born, by the Princes of *Iſrael*; And after he was dead, the LORD plauged the Children of *Iſrael*, by three years Famine, upon the ſame account, He would not be reconciled with them, before ſeven of the houſe of *Saul* was hanged, but *David* ſpared One, becauſe of the LORDS Oath that was made between him and *Jonathan*; It is not called *Davids* Oath, neither is it called *Jonathans* Oath, but it was called the LORDS Oath, becauſe they brought Him in as the Third Perſon to be Witneſs to it, 2 *Samuel* 21: 7. And He hath told you in the 3d: chapter of *Malachi*, *He will be a ſwift Witneſs againſt falſe Sweerers, for I am the* LORD, *I change not*, *Jeremiah* 35: is very remarkable, *The Sons of the houſe of the Rechabites was brought by great Men to a great houſe, and they ſet before them pots full of Wine, and Cups, and they bad them drink Wine; But they ſaid, we will drink no Wine, becauſe our Father commanded us to drink no Wine, we nor our Sons, for ever*; And becauſe of that, the LORD ſaid, *Jonadab ſhal not want a Man to ſtand before Him for ever.* But this Generation breaks not only their words, the wicked borroweth and payed not again; but alſo their Oaths; them that do ſo, hath no Right to the Promiſes; Our Fathers took Oaths as they took their Wives, to keep them to the end of their Lives. But this Generation takes Oaths as a Whoor for their eaſe; And a Rogue and a Whoor may part when ever they pleaſe; Them that are raſh in taking Oaths, and breaks them, they are worſe than Whoores in my Judgement. There was a Man

whose name was *Gilead, and he got Sons with his Wife; And another with a Stranger, whose name was Jephthah, him the Rest thrust away, saying, thou art the Son of a Strange woman, and when they and their land was in great distress; They sought for him, and made him their Head or King; Judges chap: 11.*

As for *King James the 8th*: as Some calls him, I know not whether he be the King and Queens Son or not; But this I know, *Hannover* builds on a Sandy Foundation. I think if he be the Kings Son, it is a matter indifferent, So I have sent for him already, because I am in great Distress. This *Jephtah* took an Oath to GOD, if he overcame the *Amonites, the first that ever came to meet him should be offered up a Sacrifice*; So it was his only Daughter was the first, and he did according to his oath, which is wonderful; I believe altho L: Black Bow-Whigg made such a Vow, he would not perform. Ye will say, what angers me at him? The Reason is, he hath such Envey at me when he sees me lay my hand upon a Pack of Wool, he Abuses me before many, not only that, But he says, he will Bill the Council to cast me out of my Post, but if the Council would hear him, no Man would know who were wisest. If my Witnesses bring in Another to Reign over me against my will, I fear he do with me as King *William* did to *Glenco*! Strangers is not to be trusted in. How can they cry up the name of a Murderer? Altho *Ahab* the King did not kill *Naboth*, Yet saies the LORD to him, *hast thou killed, and also taken possession?* Altho King *William* had then no hand in it, the LORD reckons him a Murderer. because he did not kill the Murderers; Its thought *Glenlyon*, or some of his Associates kill'd themselves because no other would. Go, go Reader, & borrow *Mr: Websters* Horse, because he will not Ride about his Parish, and Ride to *France*, and tell the King he is a Murderer; For altho' others has made Peace with him, he must understand I will make no Peace, nntill he Repent of his evil done Deeds. I am commanded to live Peaceably with all Men, but I reckon Murderers worse than Men, because the Devil is in Muredrer.

GOD Bless *ANN* Queen of *Great Britain*, the Great Peace Maker of all *Europe*, And Protector of all her Subjects by her good Laws.

Because I Printed the last Book, I am called a *Jacobite*, which is no small Honour to me, to be called so after so good a Man as *Jacob*; I think it is better, than to be called after *Judas*, a Hypocrite, a Traytor, as they are called, and many Deserved, Especially them that is not for the Righteous King.

Those that desires to have the Tinkclarian Works, they may have 13 several Sorts, bound or unbound, at my Shop, at the head of the West Bow in Edinburgh. For little or no Money.